55 Palestinians arrested in Nablus

JERUSALEM, July 14: Israeli troops rounded up 55 Palestinians in occupied Nablus in a weekend searchand-arrest operation that a leading PLO supporter called the largest since Israel captured the West Bank town in 1967, reports Reuter.

The army lifted a curfew today that had confined the town's 120,000 Arab residents to their homes since soldiers began a search for activists at dawn on Saturday.

"It was the largest operations since the Israelis took Nablus in 1967", said Kanaan, a businessman and supporter of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

"I saw at least 100 military vehicles surrounding the city. They were very quiet and polite but they searched every drawer and every cupboard and took the IDs of everyone, even the women," Kanaan said.

Nablus, the West Bank's biggest town, has been a flashpoint of violence during a 43month-old Palestinian revolt against the Israeli occupation.

The army said it had detained 100 people for questioning and 55 were still being

Ten were activists on the army "wanted list", suspected of shooting Israeli soldiers and civilians and killing fellow Arabs on suspicion of helping

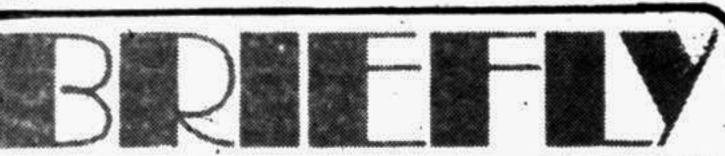
The local military government collected taxes from 130 people during the operation, and 14 were detained for refusing to pay, security sources said.

Tax evasion has been a common form of protest against the occupation.

Soldiers distributed leaflets in Arabic urging residents to wanted Palestinians. The army stationed soldiers on rooftops while they carried out houseto-house searches, security sources said.

West Bank troops clamped a curfew on Tlkarm refugee camp where Palestinians had thrown two firebombs at an army vehicle and a partial curfew on Jenin where soldiers killed a Palestinian on

In the Gaza Strip, a 60-yearold man, Ahmed Aslan, was killed by unidentified men with axes in the Mughazi refugee camp late on Saturday. Palestinian sources said.



US-Soviet talks adjourned: US and Soviet negotiators late Saturday adjourned talks on a strategic nuclear arms treaty without reaching agreement on outstanding technical issues, the state department

announced, AFP reports from Washington. Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh plan to resume the negotiations Sunday, department spokeswoman Margaret Twtwiler said in a statement.

US reviewing options on Iraq: The United States is reviewing options to force Iraq to reveal and destroy its nuclear weapons capability, President Bush's national security adviser said Saturday, reports AP from Kennebunkport.

Brent Scowcroft stopped short of saying specifically that military options were in the works to force Iraqi compliance with a United Nations cease-fire agreement requiring disclosure of nuclear facilities.

But he said, "We're looking at various things that might be necessary to bring about compliance." He declined to elabo-

Asked if any military action could involve unflateral US action, or would involve the US allies from the Gulf war against Iraq, he said, "If there were anything involving the military, we would hope there would be coalition forces."

Scoweroft issued a warning to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein: "We would hope that he would see the path of reason and back down, but we are looking at what might be necessary if he doesn't I hope he doesn't miscalculate."

Iraq urges UN to stop US attack: Iraq urged the United Nations on Saturday to prevent fullscale military aggression against it by the United States, Baghdad Radio reported, Reuter says from London.

The report, monitored by the BBC, said Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmed Hussein Khudayer wrote to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar that Baghdad had cooperated with UN teams inspecting its nuclear programme.

The five permanent members of the Security Council have told Iraq's Ambassador privately that Baghdad should reveal all of its nuclear secrets by July 25 and cooperate with UN inspectors or face serious consequences.

Iraq insists it is engaged only in peaceful nuclear research.

Duvalier to be tried: Justice Minister Karl Auguste announced late Saturday that former President Jean-Claude Duvalier, who has been living in France since his 1986 overthrow, would be tried in two weeks on charges of embezzling 120 million dollars from government coffers, AFP reports from Port-Au-Prince.

The trial may allow Haiti to sue Duvalier in France, French courts have refused to allow such a suit on the grounds that no action against Duvalier had been initiated in Haiti.

Deadly poison reduces breast cancer: Selenium can be a deadly poison but researchers are finding that it may play a role in fighting cancer. Xinhua from Washington says.

According to the July 22 issue of the Business Week "researchers at the University of Wisconsin at Madison and the Roswell Park Institute in Buffalo, New York, have discovered a selenium compound that sharply reduces the incidence of breast cancer in rats, without causing any negative effects.

Scientists believe that the compound fight cancer by scavenging strong oxidizing molecules that can damage cells.

Democrats have more party allegiance: Democrats hold just a narrow edge over Republicans in party allegiance in the United States, according to poll published Sunday, AP from New York says.

The poll by The New York Times and CBS News shower that 34 per cent of the 14,695 persons interviewed identify themselves as Democrats while 31 per cent call themselves Republicans, the party of President Bush.

A decade ago, in the first year of the administration of former President Ronald Regan, the opposition Democrats outnumbered Republicans in a New York Times poll by 41 to

23 per cent, the newspaper said. The poll was not all bad news for the Democrats. Fiftythree per cent said Democrats were 'more concerned with the needs and problems of people like yourself," while 24 per

cent picked Republicans.

12 hurt in emergency landing of plane: Twelve people were hurt sliding down chutes to safety when an American airlines DC-10 made an emergency landing at Los Angeles International Airport on Saturday, a fire official said, Reuter from Los Angeles reports.

The plane, with 212 people on board on a flight to Boston. turned back after the pilot was forced to shut down one engine and a warning light blinked on indicating the landing gear was overheating, fire official Robert Kilpatrick said.

The crew used emergency evacuation chutes to empty the airliner quickly. Two people were taken to hospital and 10 treated at the scene for minor injuries.

Nepali civil servants to be grilled: The Nepalese government has directed ministries, departments, offices and heads of all units to take action against civil servants involved in indisciplined activities. Radio Nepal broadcast this morning, says Xinhua from

Kathmandu. Some civil servants have gone on a protest programme for higher salaries and other facilities since June 30 on the call

of the civil servants organisation. The council of ministers decided that action is to be taken under existing regulations against employees trying to compel other employees to refrain from work or smearing black on Federal govt given special power to combat terrorism

25 armed bandits storm Jatoi's home town, kidnap 5

KARACHI, July 14: At least 25 armed bandits raiding the southern Pakistani town of Moro, home of former caretaker Premier Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, looted houses and kidnapped five people for ransom, police said today, reports Reuter.

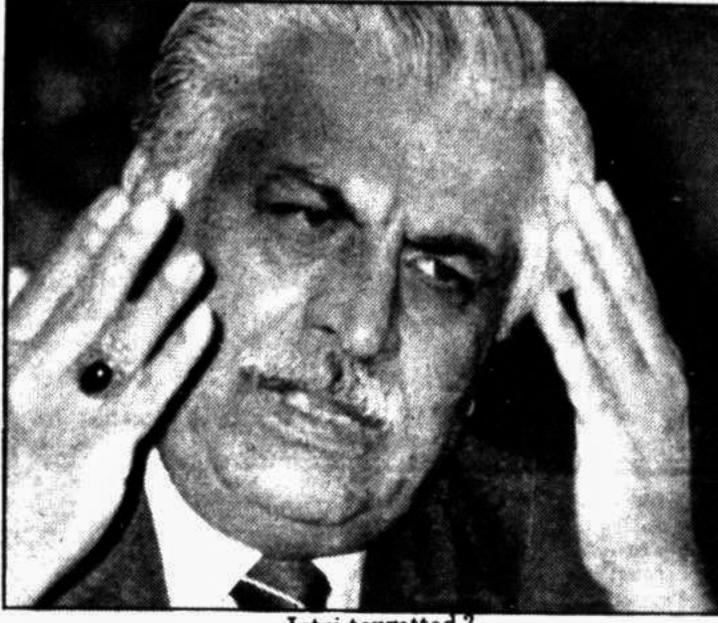
The police said one of the bandits, wounded by police gunfire, was arrested but others fled into the nearby forests of Nawabshah in Sind Province.

More than 40 bandits, locally known as dacoits, have been killed in operations against bandits in the past month in Sind, the police said.

Xinhua from Islamabad says: The Pakistan federal cabinet has approved a draft Constitution Amendment to give special powers to the federal government in terrorist affected areas and to suspend powers of superior courts without resorting to declaration of emergency, local press reported Sunday.

The cabinet gave its approval to the draft amendment in Constitution titled authority of the federal government to control certain areas in special circumstances at a special emergency meeting late Saturday night, local daily The Muslim' said. The main purpose of the

amendment is to improve the



Jatoi targetted?

law and order situation, observers said.

The cabinet approval of the draft amendment came immediately after Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in his nationwide telecast address Friday evening pledged to deal with criminals with stern hands by amending the Constitution and by initiating necessary revolutionary changes in the penal system to remedy the situation.

The daily said the approved draft of the constitutional Amendment Bill is expected to be tabled in the National Assembly.

With the help of the new legislation relating to offenses of terrorism. Kidnapping, abduction for ransom, subversion, sabotage and foreign agencies infiltration. The federal government could declare a certain area as terrorist affected and with special measures could wipe out the criminals without using armed forces and without promulgating the state of emergency.

PTI adds: Two top Pakistani leaders have blamed Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif for the total collapse of the law and order machinery in the country and asked him to forthwith submit his resignation.

The former Interior Minister and Islami Jamhoori Ittehad leader, Mian Zahid Sarfaraz said he and his supporters would move a no trust resolution against the present "incompetent leadership" at the next IJI parliamentary party meeting.

Asked by newsmen at Lahore whether he expected his move for a change in party leadership to succeed, he said "I am confident that sanity will prevail."

He said the country was now in the hands of people who were working for personal gains. "If the nation and democracy in the country has to be saved, then we have to get rid of Mr. Sharif."

Asserting that the IJI government had failed both at the centre and in the provinces. Mr Sarfaraz, a member of the National Assembly, said the rulers should accept their failure, step down and hand over power to the "alternative leadership."

Killing day was celebrated by lighting crackers

LTTE claims responsibility for Rajiv's assassination

COLOMBO uly 14: The Liberation Tigers of the Tamil Eelam was reported to have claimed responsibility for the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and celebrated his death by lighting erackers and firing in the air in northern Jaffna on the night of May 21, according to the government run Sunday Observer newspaper here, reports PTI.

Yogaratnam Yogi, General Secretary of the Peoples Front of Liberation Tigers (PFLT). political outfit of the LTTE. was reported to have told a meeting of the central committee of the party at Kondavil in Jaffna a day after the assassination that it was the LTTE that killed Rajiv Gandhi. a PFLT central committee member was reported to have informed the Indian authorities in a letter.

The Sunday Observer published the news prominently in a front page item from its defence correspondent without sourcing it.

The newspaper published full text of the letter written by a person who did not give his name due to security reasons but claimed that he is a central committee member of the PFLT and that he was present at the meeting when Yogi claimed responsibility for the assassination.

Official sources here con-

firmed that the Sri Lankan security agencies involved in probing the recent LTTE suicide car bomb attacks in Colombo recovered a copy of the letter in course of their investigation and passed it on to the Indian authorities about a week back.

The authenticity or otherwise of the letter was yet to be ascertained, the sources

Recent published reports quoting the Indian special investigating team probing the Sriperumpudur blast said a high powered radio transmitter was used by the LTTE to communicate the assassination to their headquarters in Jaffna.

copies of Penthouse magazine

and cartons of cigarettes to

speed up the unloading of the

said to include cluster bombs

and the technology to set up a

factory in Iraq to produce

cluster bombs and other ex-

ready been threatened by

questions about his possible

role in the Iran-Cortra scan-

dal, in which arms were se-

cretly sold to Iran and the

profits diverted to Nicaraguan

Gates by the US Senate's

Intelligence Committee have

"That would be a total

breach of trust," the unidenti-

arms shipments.

fled Senator said.

Confirmation hearings for

Gates's nomination has al

The covert shipments were

arms in Baghdad.

plostves.

2 Pak drug barons jailed for 7 years

KARACHI, July 14: A Pakistani court has sentenced two drug barons to seven years in jail each for smuggling 17.5 tonnes of hashish from neighbouring Afghanistan, an official spokesman said today, reports

Anwar Khattak and Mirza Iqbal Baig were convicted on Saturday by a special judge who also fined each of them five million rupees (200,000 dollars), the spokesman for the Pakistan Narcotics Control Board said.

The two were charged with smuggling top quality hashish into Pakistan for shipment to

In another drug-smuggling case, the court acquitted Anwar Khattak and eight others because of lack of evidence, a court official said.

The nine were arrested following the recovery of 6.5 tonnes of hashish at Antwerp in Belgium in July 1983.

Kurdish rebels kill 9 in Turkey

ANKARA, July 14: Separatist Kurdish guerrillas killed nine civilians, including a baby, and wounded four other people in the latest violence to hit southeast Turkey, Anatolian news agency said today, reports Reuter.

It said fighters of the leftwing Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) attacked a home in Harmancik village in Kahramanmaras Province with guns and grenades, killing four people from one family. including a six-month-old infant, and two other women.

Four other women in the house were wounded in the assault which occurred before midnight, it said.

Another group of 15 to 20 PKK guerrillas attacked Caglayancerit town in the same province at about the same time, killing a village guard and two teenaged relatives.

The PKK are intensifying their attacks on villages which they regard as pro-state and not on their side, "Kahrama nmaras Provincial Governor Mustafa Demir told Anatolian.

Village guards and security forces clashed with the attackers in Harmancik, but the rebels escaped in the dark.

5 Filipino robbers shot dead in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, July 14: Malaysian police shot dead five Philippine robbers in Sabah state after a car chase on Saturday night, the national Bernama News Agency reported, reports Reuter.

Three revolvers and several rounds of ammunition were recovered from the five, aged between 22 and 29, Sabah senior police officer Kamaruddin Alias told reporters on Sunday.

The five were said to be involved in several robberies including one in which a trader was murdered last month.

Sabah, located on Borneo island, has a serious crime problem involving illegal Philippine immigrants who can easily enter the state by sea along its long coastline.

Off the Record

Ted Kennedy jr an alcoholic

NEW YORK: The Kennedy family's unrelenting summer of public scrutiny and private tragedy took another turn on Friday with an admission by Ted Kennedy Jr that he is fighting a battle against alcoholism, reports Reuter.

Often called the bravest Kennedy because of his highly publicised fight against bone cancer, the 29-year-old son of Senator Edward Kennedy said in a statement that he had spent three weeks undergoing treatment for alcoholism at a private clinic in Hartford, Connecticut.

His cousin William Kennedy Smith, is accused of raping a woman in Palm Beach, Florida, after a night of partying with Senator Kennedy.

The Senator has been criticised for drinking and womanising and Joan Kennedy, Ted Kennedy jr's mother, was ordered into an alcohol treatment programme after being arrested for drunk driving.

Ted Kennedy jr said he sought help at the Institute of Living in Hartford "because of my belief that continued use of alcohol is impairing by ability to achieve the goals I care

The young Kennedy mounted a brave fight against bone cancer which claimed his right leg, when he was 12. He is noted for work to help the disabled and in 1986 a television film was made about his life.

Robert Shrum a Kennedy family friend, said, "he is a terrific kid who has gone through a lot. He was told he was very sick, he was to die and only survived because of a very painful experimental treatment and then decided to give a big peace of his life to helping people with handicaps."



the sidewalk near the Kremlin's Spassky gate in Moscow, July 13 to protest against the mysterious deaths of their sons during military service. Despite official military explanations for the accidents, the women claim the deaths are frequently a result of violence and brutality with - AFP/UNB photo

Solar eclipse delights Mexicans

MEXICO CITY: Mexicans heirs to a culture rooted in sun worship, on Friday recalled with delight what one newspaper called the "mother of all eclipses," reports Reuter.

The shortest night in 1,000 years' and "the astral banquet" were among the headlines as newspapers reported Thursday's total eclipse of the sun. It cast a 6,000-mile-long (9,600 km) corridor of darkness from Hawaii through Mexico and Central America to Brazil.

Many Mexicans and tourists chose to view the six-minute eclipse from the ruins of temples and pyramids that dot the country, where once the priests of the Aztec and Mayan cultures offered human sacrifices to the sun god.

An intensive campaign by the Mexican government to warn of the dangers of viewing the eclipse directly appeared to have paid off as the Health Ministry and Red Cross reported they had to deal with no cases of serious eye damage.

Eyed damage may take as much as four to six weeks to develop, however, the Health Ministry said.

Too much meat dangerous

WASHINGTON: Too much meat can be bad for your health. and too many cattle are hurting the environment, a new study says, reports AP.

The Worldwatch Institute, an environmental study group, sees trouble on many sides. It blames livestock for the miles of trodden sand that surround deep wells dug for cattle in Soviet Turkmenia and the African republic of Botswana, for wilted wildflowers in the Netherlands, for forest fires in Costa Rica and declining water supplies in the United States.

In addition, "saturated fats that accompany concentrated protein in meat and dairy products are associated with most of the diseases of affluence that are among the leading causes of death in industrial countries: heart disease, stroke, and breast and colon cancer." says a Worldwatch report published Saturday.

The US National Cattlemen's Association disagreed, saying US farm policy emphasizes "better conservation to maintain and improve the land and resources used for productive agri-

Mujahideen factions oppose idea of coalition govt

PESHWAR, Pakistan, July 14: Three Sunnt Mujahideen factions oppose the idea of a coalition government in Kabul and want to pursue their 'jihad', a rebel source said today, reports AFP.

culture."

"The Mujahideen will never forget the crimes of the communist puppets in Kabul", a joint statement said in Arabic. denouncing "westernized Afghans" ready to accept "socalled political solutions that

are impracticable." The statement was issued by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-t-Islami faction, which

singed by the Jamiat-i-Islami of Burhanuddin Rabbant and the Ittihad-i-Islami of Rasul A Jamiat official who requested anonymity minimized the importance of the text.

said the message was also

under pressure by Arabs who might have links with the Muslim brotherhood, a radical Sunni organization. Revived efforts by the

which he said was published

United Nations to forge a political solution to the Afghan con flict have prompted new divergencies within the guerrilla

Ex-CIA Dy Chief was involved in secret arms supply to Iraq in a bowling bag, whisky, WASHINGTON, July 14 Chilean arms merchant

Robert Gates, while Deputy Director at the Central Intelligence Agency, was involved in secret shipments of US arms to Iraq through Chile in the 1980s, the ABC television network and the Financial Times newspaper alleged on

Friday, reports Reuter. Based on information from unidentified former CIA operatives, the network and the Financial Times said in a joint report that Gates, nominated by President George Bush to head the CIA, met a Chilean arms merchant. Carlos

Cardoen, to set up the sales. The allegation was denied by the White House and the

The joint report said that in 1983 then President Ronald Reagan authorised the covert arms sales to Iraq in a classified presidential finding stating it was important that arms and technical assistance be funnelled to Iraq covertly by

the CIA. The US was officially neutral during the 1980-88 Iran-

The report added that a former CIA operative told

them he attended a 1986

meeting between Gates and

...

Cardoen to set up the sales of weapons and technology through Chile.

Shipments of arms to Chile. even for transshipment to another destination, were illegal until last December. The former CIA source who

was involved in the shipments said he carried 100 dollar bills

1 killed, 3 hurt in US jail riot

JOLIET (Illinois), July 14 An inmate was killed and three guards wounded when rioting broke out overnight at a maximum-security prison in Stateville, near here, local au thorities said today, reports

Fairchild said inmates went on the rampage after a guard shot and killed a prisoner who had stabbed another guard while

and set fire to it.

outside his cell. Prisoners seized control of a cell-block

been delayed to give the Senate panel more time to Prison spokesman Brian gather information. A senior Senator on the Intelligence Committee told ABC that Gates's nomination to head the CIA could be derailed if he had failed to inform the panel of the alleged covert

The stabbed guard also got caught in his colleague's gunfire and was hospitalized in

critical condition. Two other guards were

Bush strongly defended Gates on Friday and urged the slightly injured. Senate to begin confirmation-



ZHENJIANG, China: A villager sits on a makeshift dyke surrounded by flood-water July 13. So far 1,270 people have lost their lives in what Chinese officials are calling the worst floods - AFP/UNB photo in the past 100 years.